



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**VIDEOTAPE OF BREVARD COUNTY FELON WITH FIREARM LEADS
TO MORE THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

Orlando, Florida - United States District Judge John Antoon II today sentenced LAWRENCE ALEXANDER ALVARADO, age 25, of Cocoa, to a term of 218 months' imprisonment on a single charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Upon his release from prison, Alvarado also must serve four years on supervised release; he further is required to perform 150 hours of community service and pay a \$100 special monetary assessment. Alavarado previously had entered a plea of guilty to the charge on October 2, 2006.

According to the facts presented in court, deputies from the Brevard County Sheriff's Office recovered a video camera from an automobile on October 13, 2005. The automobile and contents had been abandoned by its unknown occupants after a high speed police chase in the City of Cocoa. When a videotape inside the camera subsequently was reviewed by law enforcement, they discovered images of Alvarado and another man driving through residential neighborhoods in Cocoa. The video clearly depicts

Alvarado placing the camera on the dashboard, pointing it at himself and holding a semi-automatic pistol next to his face. Alvarado refers to the firearm as a “chest-cavity rearranger” and comments about the “bodies on the gun.” Law enforcement subsequently was able to identify the firearm based on the video images; they determined that it had been stolen from an automobile in Indiatlantic in 2003. Alvarado, who had just been released from state prison in September 2005, is prohibited under federal law from possessing a firearm as a previously convicted felon. The firearm displayed by Alvarado never was recovered.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney’s Office, the State Attorney’s Office for Brevard County, the City of Cocoa Police Department, the City of Melbourne Police Department, the Brevard County Sheriff’s Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms And Explosives (“ATF”). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program “Project Safe Neighborhoods” - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr., and Special Assistant United States Attorney Gregory J. Konieczka of the Brevard County State Attorney’s Office.